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FILM FESTIVAL

in October of this year



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AFTER months of negotiation, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) was able to close a deal with a new organization that will take over the Aruba International Film Festival (AIFF). This festival will be held in the theaters of the Caribbean Cinemas at the Palm Beach Plaza from 7 until 11 of October. The new organizers of the event include local persons who are known in the world of movies, including Aaron José, Rebecca Roos, and Frits Israel. From 2010 until 2012, the ATA was the main sponsor of the AIFF, which drew many celebrities to Aruba who participated in this event. Founded by organizers Jonathan Vieira and Giuseppe Cioccarelli, the AIFF introduced innovative ideas and positioned Aruba as a trend setter when it comes to organizing events that promote the island as a tourist destination. The international coverage that the festival was able to receive, eventually surpassed 8 million dollars in so-called PR Value, which is a significant amount, and higher than the initial goal set by the festival.

Aaron José, who is the new Director of Programming for the AIFF, is an Aruban producer, director, and editor with more than 15 years in the world of films, television, and video production. For his documentaries and TV series in the U.S. he has received three awards and six Regional Emmy nominations between 2008 and 2014. Rebecca Roos, the new Director of Industry Events for the AIFF, is an award-winning Aruban producer and director with more than two decades of experience in the world of films. During her career, Roos created several documentaries, corporate videos, and international commercials. She also has ample experience in cinema management, film distribution, and organization of film festivals.

Frits Israel, who is the new Chief Financial Officer for the AIFF, is someone with many years of experience in tourism and commercial sectors. He is expected to efficiently manage this edition of the Aruba International Film Festival in a way that will produce the best results.

In the past, the festival contributed in positioning Aruba in the world of Filmmaking and succeeded in Aruba getting highlighted in important publications, such as The Hollywood Reporter, The Huffington Post, Empire Magazine, BBC Europe, and was even nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA, organizers of the prestigious

Golden Globe Awards) as the "must attend film event" in the Caribbean region.

In the last five years, Aruba has been doing a good job in relating itself with celebrities through various efforts such as participating at the Aruba Super Bar at the Super Bowl in the US in 2014, and last January at the acclaimed Sundance Film Festival.

The film festival is an addition to these efforts which focuses especially on celebrities who are considered influencers with a large following. But the event also highlights an Aruba that is rich in features and artistic talents! The great coverage and acceptance that this festival had in all markets, but especially in the Latin American market, was quite impressive, and placed Aruba in a different light.

At the end of 2012, the ATA after three years, evaluated the contract with the AIFF and decided to end the agreement due to the financial situation caused by the combination of a concert series added on to the film festival. In spite of this, the ATA stressed that they have always believed in the concept and have seen positive results in terms of the level of coverage during the years of the film festival.

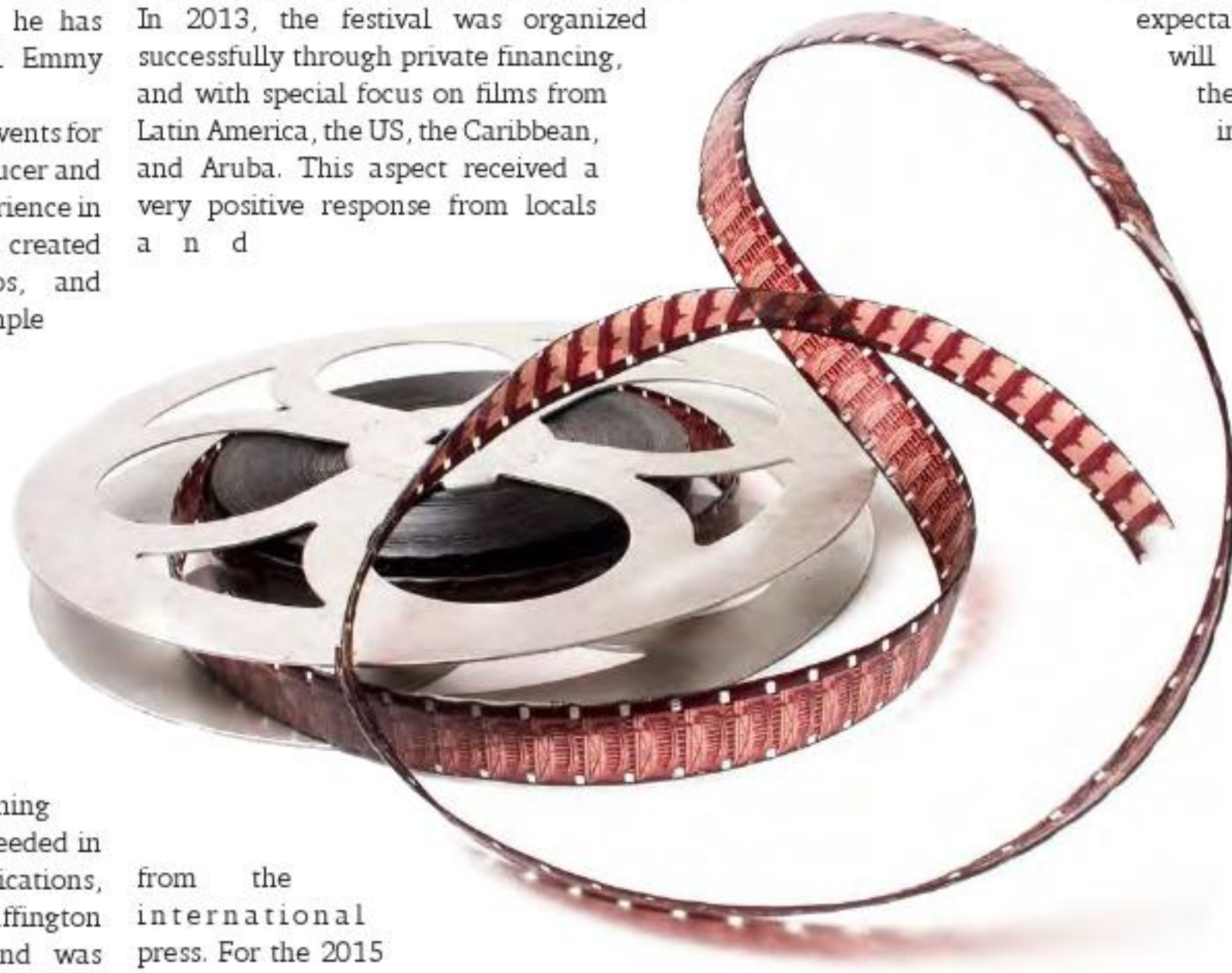
In 2013, the festival was organized successfully through private financing, and with special focus on films from Latin America, the US, the Caribbean, and Aruba. This aspect received a very positive response from locals and

management of José, Roos, and Israel, the organizers will be focusing on the same elements that were successful in 2013, to give the AIFF the opportunity to shine in 2015, and continue to grow.

Another interesting aspect of the 2015 edition of the AIFF is the introduction of a new film market. The International Film Market Aruba (IFMA) will be one of the first film markets in the Caribbean region, where various international movie distributors will be in Aruba. This will facilitate local film producers and visiting film producers in presenting their films to international distributors, and see if there is any interest from the distributors to represent and sell their film in international markets. This new aspect of the AIFF has the potential of bringing a wide range of new visitors to the Aruba every year.

The film festival also represents a way to provide the local community and the youth the opportunity through workshops and educational sessions to learn and be inspired on the creativity in the world of cinematography, which is a beautiful profession that needs more support on our island.

The combination of these elements give the organizers the expectation that the AIFF will once again gain the attention of the international press and help position Aruba in the world of movie-making.



from the international press. For the 2015 edition, it was decided that the under the new



Twelfth Anniversary of PAPIAMENTU

as official language

TWELVE

years ago, yesterday, Papiamentu was made an official language in Aruba. On 21 May 2003, the Aruban Parliament approved the law making Papiamentu an official language along with Dutch. At this time both languages were legalized as official languages of Aruba, for the first time in the history of Aruba.

In the Netherlands, Dutch became the official language in 1995, while Curacao and Bonaire made Papiamentu official four years after Aruba, in 2007. Over the past 12 years much work has been accomplished regarding Papiamentu both as a subject in education, and as the national language.

After offering various Third Grade studies in Papiamentu, in August 2002 a Second Grade degree in Papiamentu was offered at teacher institute IPA. Several people received training as Papiamentu instructors through this program. After this group successfully

finished their program, a Bachelor degree in Papiamentu was designed and offered. There are currently a number of Papiamentu teachers who have also completed their studies in a Master's in Education, Language and Literature of Papiamentu at the University of Curacao, which was initiated in September of 2013.

In August 2003, Papiamentu was introduced in secondary education at EPB, MAVO, HAVO classes 1 through 3 and VWO classes 1 through 3, as well as professional education schools EPI and IPA. Papiamentu as a school subject is mainly supported by the didactic method known as Cristal. In the coming school year, 2015-2016, Papiamentu will continue as a subject in the HAVO and VWO classes 4, and finally as a course that students can take in their year of final examinations. Another development in Education regarding the Papiamentu language is the Multilingual School Project, which was implemented in August 2008 as a pilot program at kindergartens. Currently Papiamentu has been

introduced as a language of instruction and as a course together with Dutch, English and Spanish in the 3rd grade in a pilot program in two elementary schools.

In 2009, for the first time, the Government published a thorough list of words in Papiamentu, the *Vocabulario Ortografico di Papiamentu*, better known as the Blue Book. This book represents the orthography of Papiamentu on Aruba. Legislation on the orthography of Papiamentu still has to be ratified. With this list of words, writers in the Papiamentu language have an instrument to help them write Papiamentu better.

In 2010 the first edition of the *Grammar Manual of Papiamentu - Morphology* was published. Morphology is the study that deals with structure, formation, function and meaning of words in a language. This book mainly categorized words.

In the same year another work in linguistic investigation and development was initiated: *Grammar*

Manual of Papiamentu - Syntax. Syntax studies how to order, coordinate and subordinate words, and the relationship that these words have in a phrase. This book was mainly about phrases and their structure. There are plans to have this book published towards the end of 2015. The goal of both books is to help the community acquire basic knowledge of the grammar of Papiamentu. Aside from these many books have been translated into Papiamentu, both didactic books, as well as literature.

Papiamentu has its own vocabulary, grammar, and orthography. Our language is rich in proverbs, sayings and expressions. This also means that there is much more to investigate, both linguistically and in literature. All of us are responsible to maintain Papiamentu at an elevated level. "Nos idioma ta den bo man. Papiamentu, cuid'e!" Our language is in your hands. Papiamentu, cherish it!

For additional information, please visit the website www.papiamentu.aw.

The Dutch Marines find 6000 KILOS OF MARIHUANA in the Caribbean

Source: noventas.mobi

THE Dutch Marines have intercepted 6000 kilos of marihuana in the Caribbean, the largest catch they have ever intercepted. The contraband was found this morning aboard a fishermen boat called Caribbean Soul. The vessel was on its way from Jamaica to Guyana with 12 people on board.

A patrol aircraft of the US Coast Guard spotted the boat and sent the Dutch Marine vessel Zr. Ms. Zeeland to inspect it. After the Caribbean Soul was detected, right before daybreak, the Law Enforcement Detachment of the US Coast Guard quickly sent interception boats to the site for boarding. A helicopter supported the action. The vast amount of marihuana was quickly found aboard.

The persons aboard the Caribbean Soul were detained. The boat was then escorted to Ponce in Puerto Rico where it was delivered over to the Drugs Enforcement Agency, together with the suspects.

Plenty of work

According to the US Coast Guard commander in the San Juan sector the collaboration with the Dutch Marines and other partners continues to be fruitful. Navy Commander in the Caribbean area Hans Lodder said, "These kinds of large interceptions are an indication that there is plenty of work for us to do. To accomplish this, a good collaboration and interchange of information with all partners in the area is crucial."

ImSan getting ready to celebrate its second luster

ON June 1st Medical Institute San Nicolas (ImSan) celebrates its second luster. ImSan was instituted through a national ordinance that was enforced on June 1, 2005. To celebrate this special anniversary, ImSan will be organizing several activities for its employees.

In 2005, when the ImSan first started operating, they started out with the government employees that from the Medical Center Rudy Engelbrecht and from the Ambulance. Slowly, as the services offered by ImSan grew, so did their staff. The services grew to include a Diabetes Center, Eye Specialist, and a Center for Dialysis.

Since 2013, all the personnel that work at ImSan is employed directly by ImSan, through employment contracts. ImSan currently employs 148 people who together work towards the quality, improvement, and

progress of the medical institute.

Working and thinking according to the core values of the center has created a pleasing work environment in which employees, as colleagues, can count on each other and help each other out to provide the best help and service to the patients and clients.

ImSan would like to thank all the leaders of Aruba, directors, and former ImSan employees that have contributed to the development of the Institute in one way or another, making it what it is today. ImSan also thanks the AZV and the Hospital for their cooperation.

The realization of ImSan's plans for a Center for Radio Therapy, and Eye Center, Operation Rooms, and a Department of Sterilization at the Institute, will greatly contribute to Healthcare on Aruba and the wellbeing of the Aruban people.



Parliament Member Xiomara Maduro says,

Minister Oduber has tried ON TWO OCCASIONS

to take advantage of public funds for his personal use

THE Eman Cabinet misuses public funds of this country, says Parliament Member Xiomara Maduro. "This week we have shown how the Cabinet of our country agreed to pay for an alarm system to be installed at the house of Minister Otmar Oduber," Maduro says. "This is something that cannot be done by law, is against all morality, but gives a good view of the mindset of abuse with which the Eman Cabinet governs this country." According to Maduro, Minister Oduber has tried on two occasions to use public funds to pay for an alarm installation at his house.

First attempt in December 2014

On December 15, 2014, Minister Oduber sent his purchase order for an alarm system to the Finance Department asking for these personal costs to be paid with public funds, Parliament Member Maduro informs. But by December 23, the Director of the Finance Department sent the purchase order back to the Minister, informing him that as the alarm system is for his private residence, the law does not allow public funds to be used to cover these costs. According to the law, public funds can only be used to pay for

installations at government buildings.

The letter went on to explain to the Minister that if there was a need to cover these costs, he would have to approach the relevant departments, such as Human Resources, and ask for a decision from the Cabinet on the matter. This shows the first attempt that Minister Oduber made to try to abuse of public funds, but he was stopped, says Maduro.

Second attempt through the Cabinet

Minister Oduber says in his defense that he paid for all the costs for the alarm system last year, Maduro informs. However, documents from the council of Ministers of January 20, 2015, show that the Minister asked the Cabinet on January 13 to use public funds to cover the costs for his alarm system. The documentation shows that the Ministers voted on the matter and agreed to cover the costs for the alarm system.

"In other words," Maduro says, "even though the Finance Department had already told the leader in December 2014, that the Government cannot pay

for the alarm, still Minister Oduber went to ask his colleagues to overrule this decision."

Yet again the Finance Department stopped this abuse from happening, says Maduro. In a letter dated February 24, 2015, the Director of the department explains that the decision by the Cabinet cannot be executed because the law does not allow for private costs to be covered by public funds. Neither does article 28 of the law of Accountancy allow for the execution of the decision.

Mindset of Abuse

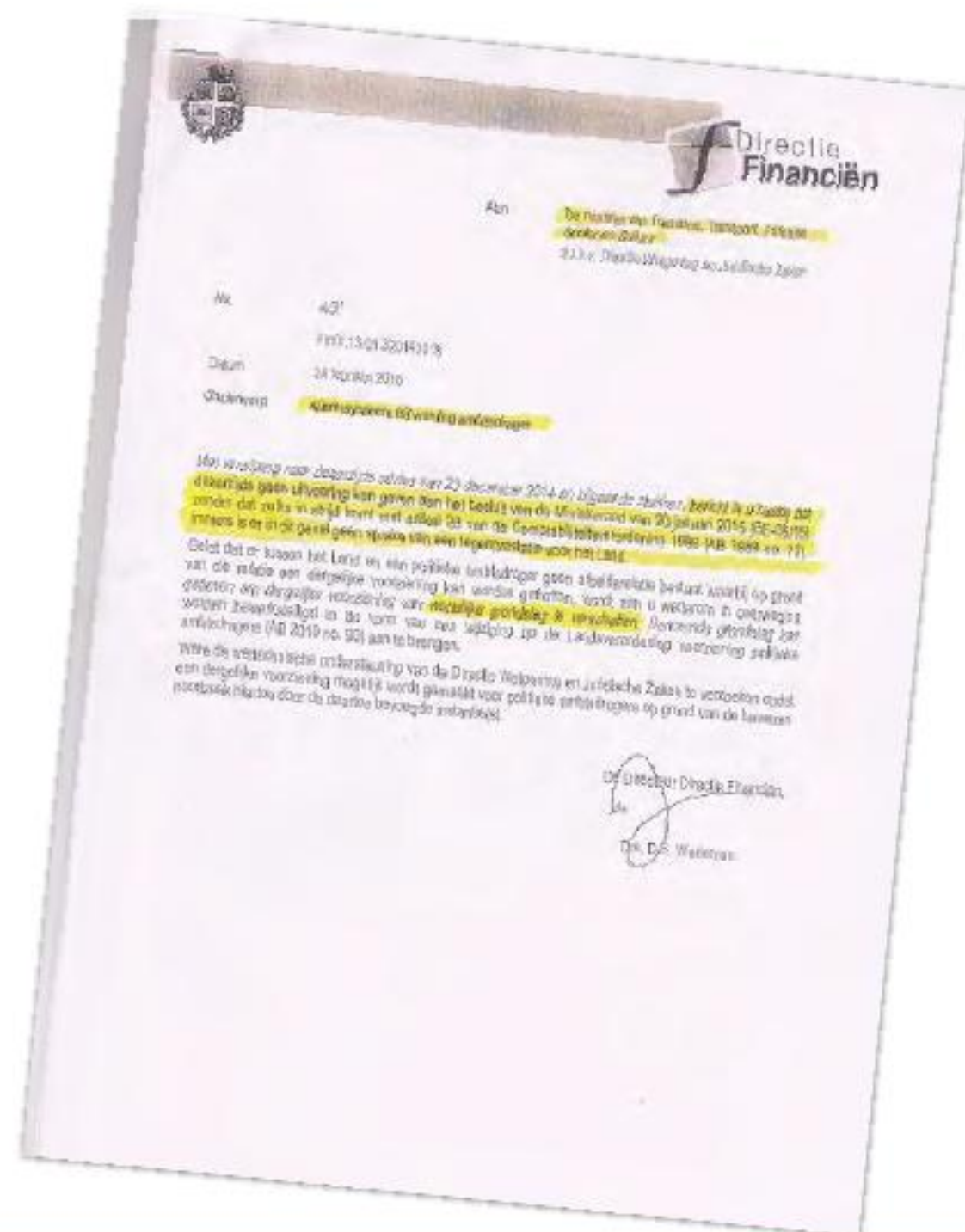
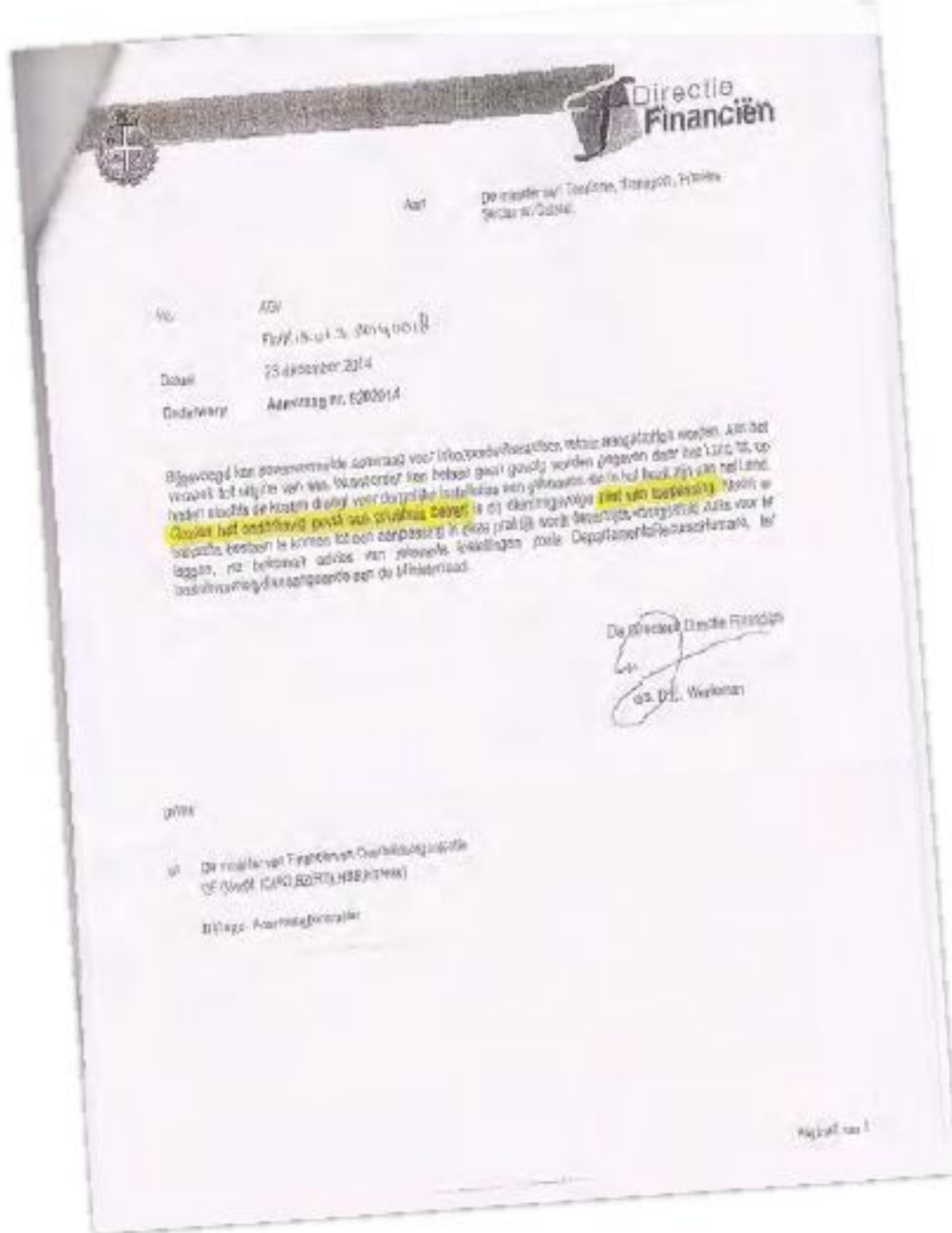
"Once again the people can observe the abusive mindset with which the Eman Cabinet governs our country," Maduro says. "Ministers Eman and Oduber, rather than speaking the truth in this alarm [system] issue, have been manipulating and lying to the people saying that what we have brought to light is not true. But these documents speak for themselves, and show once again that these kinds of people, who have no shame, do not deserve to direct the public funds of our country."

Uittreksel van de besluitenlijst van de vergadering van de ministerraad, d.d. 20 januari 2015 (88-05/15)

9. Voorstel MinTPSC d.d. 13 januari 2015 inzake aanvraag Alarmsysteem. (MTPSC 14/9243).

Instemmen met het vergoeden van de aanleg van een alarmsysteem bij de woning van MinTPSC, *en* declaratie.

Secretaris van de Ministerraad
23 JAN. 2015



Minister of Health Alex Schwengle is

CONCERNED about HIGH blood pressure on Aruba



THE Minister of Health, Dr. Alex Schwengle, says the number of people on the island living with high blood pressure is alarming. This is why he supported the recent effort by the Health Platform that dedicated an entire week on bringing awareness on this issue in observation of the World Blood Pressure Day, on May 17.

"On Aruba one out of every two men between the ages of 25 and 64 has high blood pressure, and in women on the same ages, it is one out of every three persons. These numbers are of great concern to me as these are the productive years of a person," the Minister said.

The Minister added that "during these ages the person is the most active at

home, with their family and at work. It is the most important years for preparing for retirement, and if during these ages [a person's] health is already failing, by the time they reach the age of collecting pension, probably there are already manifestations of heart disease and circulation problems."

According to worldwide agreements of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), your blood pressure is considered high when the systolic pressure is above 140, and the diastolic pressure is above 90.

"What is more important is that high blood pressure influences our mortality numbers greatly," the Minister said. At 33 percent, deaths caused by heart and

coronary disease are the number one cause of mortality on Aruba.

Because people living with high blood pressure often do not have symptoms, they can be living with this condition for years, without knowing it. During this time, the high blood pressure can harm the heart, veins, eyes, kidney, and other parts of the body.

Minister Schwengle encourages everyone living with this condition, as well as anyone who has suffered from the effects of high blood pressure in the past, to take good care of themselves, making the right decisions for the benefit of their health.

The Minister asks patients to know themselves, to know their numbers, and understand the right interpretation

of these numbers, that are measured when a medical professional take their blood pressure.

It is important the not just the people who already know that they have high blood pressure are aware of their numbers, the Minister said, but that everyone gets their numbers checked on a regular basis and are aware of them.

"Maintain a healthy body weight (BMI of less than 25). Channel stress in a positive way, relax, and go to sleep early. It is very important that you visit your house doctor with some regularity so they can control and guide your treatment to maintain the blood pressure under control," Minister Schwengle said.



**The request
was made
to the Government,
but paid I for the alarm myself**

Joe Laveist Sport Park

OPENING

set for June



YESTERDAY morning Minister of Economic Affairs Mike de Meza was at the Joe Laveist Sport Park to supervise the works going on for the upgrading of the ball park. "A super modern scoring board arrived in Aruba, which works wireless and has necessary features to score baseball and football games. It is the type of scoring board that is used in major and minor league games," the Minister said.

"Currently they are working on the structure of the foundation for the support of the scoring board. This will be finished in a week so they can then install the scoring board and test all the features, for everything to work as it should," De Meza said. At the same time, they are adjusting the red earth in the in-field track and creating a maintenance plan. "By the end of June everything should be ready for an opening event and for Joe Laveist Sport Park to be used for different official events," the leader said.

The park, that for years was the center where many participated in sports, will become a "jewel", said the Minister. Because of a lack of maintenance the park kept deteriorating, but now after a big investment, the facility will become one of the most beautiful sport parks in Aruba. Many sports clubs have already expressed an interest in the facility, and management will be making decisions on how to best split the time for all athletes, but especially the youth, to be able to use the space.

ACCORDING to Minister Otmar Oduber, member of the opposition Xiomara Ruiz-Maduro has recently been trying to create a political issue, where nothing is going on. In order to "unmask this political farce", the Minister said, he has given detailed explanations regarding the alarm installation at his home that was paid by himself, and not the Government. Indeed there was a proposition for the alarm to be paid by the Government, Minister Oduber informs, however, the payment never took place. The Minister has since paid for the alarm installation himself, since last year already. According to Oduber, this decision, to have the alarm covered

by the Minister himself rather than the Government, was made so that the alarm system could remain at his house after he has retired as a Minister, rather than having to uninstall the system, as would have been the case if the Government had paid for the system.

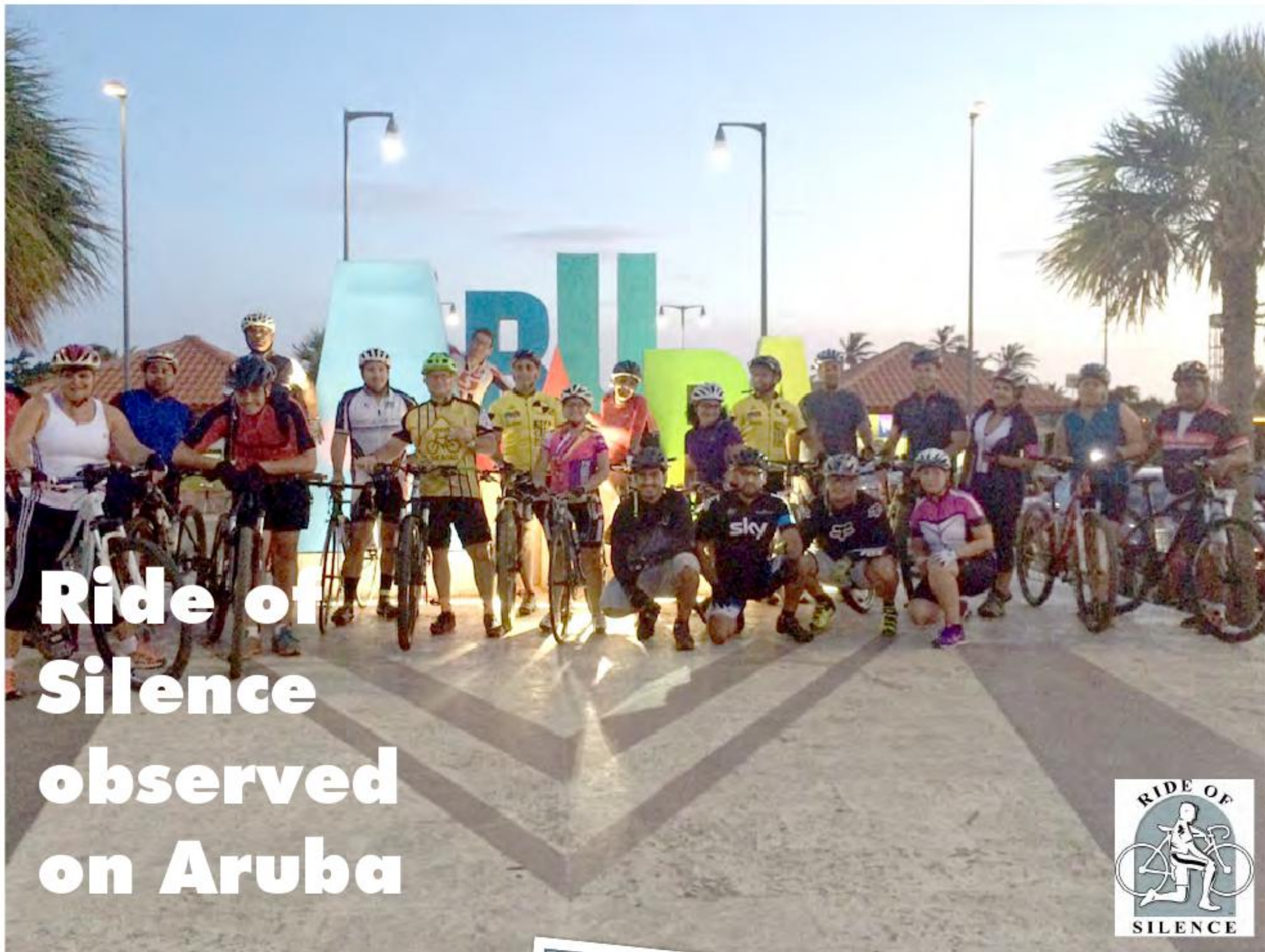
Oduber says he was advised last year to install an alarm system at his residence for his own security and that of his family. After finding out that if the Government paid for this installation the system would have to be uninstalled after he retires from the Government, Oduber reportedly decided to pay for the

installation himself. At this point the decision was made to not continue with the petition to have the Government cover the installation costs, according to Oduber. The Minister also said that there was no accounting post where the costs could be placed in the Government finance system, and this post was also not created in the budget presented to Parliament. According to the Minister, "convincing proof" that he was no longer interested in getting this amount paid by the Government anymore.

In contrast to this situation, Oduber reminds the people of a few years

ago when the former Minister of Justice Rudy Croes was granted two secret service officers for an entire year, to protect him 24 hours per day. This cost the people almost Afl 1 million, says Oduber. This was done, says Minister Oduber, while there were indications that Croes' "own drunk bodyguards" shot on his car, and while Croes traveled to Colombia with no protection some time afterwards.

The Minister thinks opposition member Ruiz-Maduro should explain this situation to the people of Aruba, rather than making an issue over something that has not cost the Government anything.



Ride of Silence observed on Aruba



THE third Wednesday of May is a day when cyclists all over the world ride together in what is called the Ride of Silence. The Ride of Silence is a bike tour that is conducted slowly and in complete quietness. This year cyclists in Aruba also observed this special day.

The purpose of the ride is to bring awareness to automobilists of the dangers that exist on the road for cyclists. The ride is also a moment to commemorate all cyclists that have lost their lives in traffic accidents. The tour was held in 22 countries, 7 continents, and at 315 events in 2014.

A local cyclist who remembered this day, made an appeal to other fellow cyclists via Facebook, that immediately got a group mobilized who wanted to participate in this ride to bring awareness to community through the Ride of Silence.

Even though cyclists are legally a part of traffic, our community still has to get used to the increase of cyclists on our roads. The local cyclists wanted to bring more awareness to the community on the risks they encounter on the road and to help bring about a change in attitude towards cyclists.



AVIAN FLU RAVAGING MIDWESTERN STATES, 38 MILLION BIRDS DESTROYED

AN avian flu outbreak is sweeping across the Midwest at a frightening pace, ravaging chicken and turkey farms and leaving officials stumped on the virus's seemingly unstoppable spread.

Now reaching to 15 states, the outbreak has been detected at 170 farms, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Because there's no vaccine, infected and even healthy birds must be euthanized to try to stop the virus, forcing the killing of 38.9 million birds and counting, the USDA said.

This particular strain of avian flu, the highly pathogenic H5N2, was first confirmed a backyard flock in Washington State. While chickens and turkeys are highly susceptible to it, it is considered a low risk for transmission to humans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Now officials are scrambling, trying to figure out how to dispose of millions of dead birds. Most of them are in Iowa, the largest egg producer in the U.S. and the one hardest hit by the outbreak. At one farm alone – Rembrandt Enterprises – some 5.5 million birds had to be destroyed, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

"I've been in the landfill business probably 26 years and I've never ever seen this kind of volume," said Randy Oldenkamp, director of the Northwest Iowa Area Solid Waste Agency. "And I hope I never do again."

Oldenkamp is accepting 100 loads of the birds at 15 tons a load. But others are turning away the birds, fearing contamination and neighbors' complaints. "It is a catastrophe," said Billy Duplechein, who works with Clean Harbors, the Massachusetts contractor hired by the federal government to do the cleanup. "Nobody wants to see this kind of stuff, but something has to be done." The USDA believes the virus was brought to the Midwest by migratory water fowl via the Mississippi Flyway. But U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has admitted that the ongoing and quick

spread could be "laterally spread" by people.

"We've had circumstances recently where folks have been using pond water, for example, to feed and to water their birds. Well, that's a problem because the pond water could be contaminated," Vilsack said. "We've had situations where folks are supposed to shower before they go into the facility, but the shower doesn't work, so they go in anyway."

Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said the poultry industry is in uncharted territory. The virus is "doing things we've never seen it do before," so scientists' understanding is very limited, he said.

"Influenza viruses have thought in the past to be transmitted by birds to birds in close contact and that it was only through that kind of transmission that we need to be concerned," Osterholm said. "Now we surely have a very dynamic situation in the Midwest. It's also a situation where we no longer can assume it's just migratory birds."

Other theories on the virus's rapid transmission include small rodents infiltrating facilities, or contaminated feed and water. It's possible the virus could even be airborne.

Vilsack and Iowa Gov Terry Branstad took to the media this week, begging landfills to take the birds before any more birds can be exposed. Farms are also burying the birds, composting them with wood chips and corn stover and burning them in five large mobile incinerators brought in by Clean Harbors. Officials are also considering taking mobile incinerators from farm to farm.

Northwest Iowa has been the hardest hit. It has the state's highest concentration of large egg laying operations. Workers in white and yellow Tyvek suits, protective gear with a respirator, could be seen discarding the birds from barns.

Neighbors in the remote rural communities say they have noticed more trucks at



Workers in Tyvek protective suits remove dead birds from the barns at Sunrise Farms, in Harris, Iowa, last week. Some of the birds from this farm are being composted on an 80-acre plot behind the 24 large barns.



the farms and certainly, they've noticed the putrid smell. Dawn Cronk lives just a mile and a half south of Sunrise Farms, near Harris, Iowa, and drives home at midnight from her job working the late shift at a nursing home.

"I have the window down and all of a sudden there's just that distinct dead animal smell," she said. "And it's not just one dead animal, it's like you walked into a... I don't know, how do you put it... a decomposing lot. It's just that strong."

There's also strong fears about the spread of the virus.

Dale Raasch, an organic poultry producer, keeps a flock of about 550 chickens, mostly for eggs. Because of avian flu, Raasch no longer allows most people on his property, so he meets people on a gravel road. The spot, right in front

of a little country cemetery, is also where Raasch meets his farm-to-table distributor.

"They've got two or three other places that they stop at that has chickens," he said. "And I just feel that it's better to have them not come on our place."

A huge incinerator is being set up at the Cherokee County landfill and officials there plan on firing it up this week and have it burning for 24 hours a day. Although some hold out hope that the outbreak will die down this summer, when it's harder for the virus to live in hot temperatures, other guess that states could be cleaning up for months or even years to come.

"That's the million dollar question," Duplechein said. "We really don't know."

Sources: NPR & Iowa Public Radio

California governor declares **state of emergency** after oil slick spreads off coast

FOX NEWS) - GOLETA, Calif. – An oil spill from a ruptured onshore pipeline that fouled beaches and threatened wildlife along a scenic stretch of the California coast spread across 9 miles of ocean Wednesday and officials said up to 105,000 gallons may have leaked out. Up to a fifth of that amount -- 21,000 gallons -- reached the sea, according to estimates.

Federal regulators were investigating the leak as workers in protective suits raked and shoveled stinky black goo off the beaches, and boats towed booms into place to corral the two slicks off the Santa Barbara coast. The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969 -- the largest in U.S. waters at the time -- that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement. The chief executive of the company that runs the pipeline, Plains All American Pipeline LP, was at the site of the spill Wednesday and apologized for it.

"We deeply, deeply regret that this incident has occurred at all," Chairman and CEO Greg L. Armstrong said at a news conference. "We apologize for the damage that it's done to the wildlife and to the environment and we're very sorry for the disruption and inconvenience that it's caused on the citizens and the visitors to this area." Crude was flowing through the pipe at 54,600 gallons an hour at the time of the leak Tuesday, the company said. Company officials didn't say how long it leaked before it was discovered and shut down, or discuss the rate at which oil escaped.

Federal regulators from the Department of Transportation, which oversees oil pipeline safety, investigated the leak's cause, the pipe's condition and the potential regulatory violations.

The 24-inch pipe built in 1991 had no previous problems and was thoroughly inspected in 2012, according to Plains. The pipe underwent similar tests about two weeks ago, though the results had not been analyzed yet.

There was no estimate on the cost of the cleanup or how long it might take.

A combination of soiled beaches and pungent stench of petroleum caused state parks officials to close Refugio State Beach and El Capitan State Beach, both popular campgrounds west of Santa Barbara, over the Memorial Day weekend.

Still, tourists were drawn to pull off the Pacific Coast Highway to eye the disaster from overlooking bluffs. "It smells like what they use to pave the roads," said Fan Yang, of Indianapolis, who was hoping to find cleaner beaches in Santa Barbara, about 20 miles away. "I'm sad for the birds-- if they lose their habitat." The early toll on wildlife included two oil-covered pelicans, said spokeswoman Melinda Greene. Biologists were seen counting dead fish and crustaceans along sandy beaches and rocky shores. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife closed fishing and shellfish harvesting for a mile east and west of Refugio beach and it deployed booms to protect the nesting and foraging habitat of the snowy plover and the least tern, both endangered shore birds.

The coastal area is habitat for seals, sea lions and whales, which are now migrating north through the area.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday night declared a state of emergency because of the spill, a move that frees up additional state funding and resources to help in the cleanup efforts.

Also Wednesday, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley said her office, along with the state attorney general, is investigating the pipeline spill for possible criminal prosecution or a finding of civil liability.

Environmental groups used the spill as an opportunity to take a shot at fossil fuels and remind people of the area's notoriety with oil spills.

"Big Oil comes with big risks-- from drilling to delivery," said Bob Deans, spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Santa Barbara learned that



lesson over 40 years ago when offshore drilling led to disaster."

Large offshore rigs still dot the horizon off the coast, pumping crude to shore and small amounts of tar from natural seepage regularly show up on beaches. The leak occurred in a pipe that was carrying crude from an onshore facility toward refineries further down the chain of production. The oil spilled into a culvert running under a highway and into a

storm drain that emptied into the ocean. The spill was not expected to affect gas prices, even though the pipeline was out of operation for now, said Tom Kloza, global head of energy at the Oil Price Information Service.

In fact, Californians probably will see high prices drop a bit because the wholesale price of gas has dropped 60 cents a gallon in the past week, Kloza said.

China warns U.S. surveillance plane

ABOVE THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (CNN) - The Chinese navy issued warnings eight times as a U.S. surveillance plane on Wednesday swooped over islands that Beijing is using to extend its zone of influence.

The series of man-made islands and the massive Chinese military build-up on them have alarmed the Pentagon, which is carrying out the surveillance flights in order to make clear the U.S. does not recognize China's territorial claims. The militarized islands have also alarmed America's regional allies.

Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell told CNN's Erin Burnett Wednesday night that the confrontation indicates there is "absolutely" a risk of the U.S. and China going to war sometime in the future.

A CNN team was given exclusive access to join in the surveillance flights over the contested waters, which the Pentagon allowed for the first time in order to raise awareness about the challenge posed by the islands and the growing U.S. response.

CNN was aboard the P8-A Poseidon, America's most advanced surveillance and submarine-hunting aircraft, and quickly learned that the Chinese are themselves displeased by the U.S. pushback.

*"This is the Chinese navy ...
This is the Chinese navy ...
Please go away ...
to avoid misunderstanding,"*

a voice in English crackled through the radio of the aircraft in which CNN was present.

This is the first time the Pentagon has declassified video of China's building activity and audio of Chinese challenges of a U.S. aircraft.

The aircraft flew at 15,000 feet in the air at its lowest point, but the U.S. is considering flying such surveillance missions even closer over the islands, as well as sailing U.S. warships within miles of them, as part of the new, more robust U.S. military posture in the area.

Soon after the Chinese communication was heard, its source appeared on the horizon seemingly out of nowhere: an island made by China some 600 miles from its coastline. The South China Sea is the subject of numerous rival -- often messy -- territorial claims over an area that includes fertile fishing grounds and potentially rich reserves of undersea natural resources. China is increasingly showing that even far from its mainland, it sees itself as having jurisdiction over the

body of water.

Wednesday's mission was specifically aimed at monitoring Chinese activities on three islands that months ago were reefs barely peaking above the waves. Now they are massive construction projects that the U.S. fears will soon be fully functioning military installations.

China's alarming creation of entirely new territory in the South China Sea is one part of a broader military push that some fear is intended to challenge U.S. dominance in the region. Beijing is sailing its first aircraft carrier, equipping its nuclear missiles with multiple warheads; developing missiles to destroy U.S. warships; and, now, building military bases far from its shores. That's exactly what Morell warned may be coming if China continues down its current path. He warned on CNN that "there's a real risk, when you have this kind of confrontation, for something bad happening."

He added that China's aggressive growth hints at a broader trend as the Asian economic superpower continues to expand its influence and strength -- one that Morell said could "absolutely" lead to war between the U.S. and China.

"China is a rising power. We're a status quo power. We're the big dog on the block ... They want more influence," he said. "Are we going to move a little bit? Are they going to push? How is that dance going to work out? This is a significant issue for the next President of the United States."

War is "not in their interests, (and) it's not in our interests," Morell acknowledged.

"But absolutely, it's a risk," he said.

"I'm scratching my head like everyone else as to what's the (Chinese) end game here. We have seen increased activity even recently on what appears to be the building of military infrastructure," Capt. Mike Parker, commander of the fleet of P8 and P3 surveillance aircraft deployed to Asia, told CNN aboard the P8.

"We were just challenged 30 minutes ago and the challenge came from the Chinese navy, and I'm highly confident it came from ashore, this facility here," Parker said of the Chinese message for the U.S. plane to move away, as he pointed to an early warning radar station on an expanded Fiery Cross Reef.

In just two years, China has expanded these islands by 2,000 acres -- the equivalent of 1,500 football fields -- and counting, an engineering marvel in waters as deep as 300 feet.

In a sign of just how valuable China views these islands



to be, the new islands are already well protected.

From the cockpit, Lt. Cmdr Matt Newman told CNN, "There's obviously a lot of surface traffic down there: Chinese warships, Chinese coast guard ships. They have air search radars, so there's a pretty good bet they're tracking us."

The proof was loud and clear. The Chinese navy ordered the P8 out of the airspace eight times on this mission alone.

Each time, the American pilots told them calmly and uniformly that the P8 was flying through international airspace.

That answer sometimes frustrated the Chinese radio operator on the other end.

Once he responds with exasperation:

*"This is the Chinese navy ...
You go!"*

This is a military-to-military stand-off in the skies, but civilian aircraft can find themselves in the middle.

As was heard on the first of several Chinese warnings on the radio, the pilot of a Delta flight in the area spoke on the same frequency, quickly identifying himself as commercial. The voice on the radio then identified himself as "the Chinese Navy" and the Delta flight went on its way.

The more China builds, U.S. commanders told CNN, the more frequently and aggressively the Chinese navy warns away U.S. military aircraft.

Over Fiery Cross Reef and, later, Mischief Reef, fleets of dozens of dredgers could be seen hard at work, sucking sand off the bottom of the sea and blowing it in huge plumes to create new land above the surface, while digging deep harbors below.

"We see this every day," Parker said. "I think they work weekends on this because we see it all the time."

Japan aquariums to stop taking dolphins from annual Taiji hunt

(CNN) Japanese aquariums have narrowly avoided being thrown out of the global industry body by agreeing to stop buying dolphins caught in the controversial Taiji hunt.

Graphic images of slaughtered dolphins in red pools of blood attracted worldwide attention when Taiji was featured in the Academy Award-winning 2009 film "The Cove."

Every year, hunters descend on the town in Wakayama Prefecture, where they're licensed to kill nearly 2,000 dolphins and porpoises from seven different species. Japan defends the practice as being in accordance with local customs. Most are killed for their meat, but a "small proportion" are caught for live sales to aquariums worldwide, according to the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

JAZA SUSPENDED

Last month, WAZA suspended the membership of the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) for violating its code of ethics on animal welfare.

WAZA said it had worked for years to work collaboratively with JAZA to stop its members from taking dolphins from "Taiji drives fisheries" to no avail. Drive fishing involves using boats to push the dolphins into a bay where they're trapped in nets or killed.

In a letter dated May 20, the chairman of the Japanese association thanked WAZA for its "dispassionateness and patience" over the issue. It said all JAZA members would be banned from taking dolphins from the Taiji hunt and taking part in their "export and sale," and appealed for its membership to be reinstated.

In a statement, WAZA said the move was a "welcome breakthrough" that reaffirms its "well-considered approach of working collaboratively with international partners to improve the well-being and conservation of global wildlife."



IMPACT OF BAN

JAZA represents about 150 zoos and aquariums, including Churaumi Aquarium in Okinawa, one of the largest in the world. JAZA said 99 of its members had voted to stay with WAZA. The group said larger aquariums wouldn't feel the effects of the ban for possibly several years, but for smaller operations it could cause "great difficulties."

Around 20 dolphins are caught each year at Taiji for JAZA members, the group said, adding that it would focus its efforts on dolphin breeding programs to address any shortfall.

Taiji Mayor Kazutaka Sangen said the ban would not mean an end to "drive fishing."

"We continue to protect our fishermen who do fishing under the permission given by the local and central governments. We will not end (drive fishing)," Sangen said.

"(Drive hunting) is a legal fishing. The town will protect the fishing operated by our fishermen with the proper right."

TAIJI HUNT

According to the Dolphin Project, 751 dolphins were slaughtered at Taiji during the last season, which ran from September 2014 to March 2015. Another 80 were kept for captivity, while 251 were released. It cautioned that the figures were rough estimates based on independent observations.

The project, which is run by the U.S.-based Earth Island Institute, said the

biggest market for captive dolphins was Japan. Dolphins caught at Taiji are also sent to China, the Middle East and Russia, the group said.

Campaign group Sea Shepherd said the ban was

"great news for the dolphins of Taiji."

"With the elimination of the demand for Taiji dolphins from Japanese aquariums, Taiji's hunt is one huge step close to being sunk economically," the group said in a statement.

WAZA represents more than 1,300 zoos and aquariums worldwide.

Skipping meals may increase belly fat



(CBS NEWS)

- Skipping meals may seem like a shortcut to losing weight, but a new study suggests it could backfire and actually increase belly fat.

For the study, published in the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*, researchers from The Ohio State University and Yale looked at the impact of different eating habits in mice. Some of the mice

were allowed to nibble throughout the day, while others were put on a restricted diet where they were fed just once every 24 hours. The dieting mice tended to scarf down their daily allotment of food all at once -- the equivalent of fasting most of the day and then bingeing on a big meal.

"In this restricted group, everybody became what we call gorgers," Martha Belury, the senior author of the study and a professor of human nutrition at OSU, told CBS News. "Even though we took the mice off their diets after a few days, they would still gorge." Those on the restricted eating plan initially lost weight, but gained it

back when more calories were restored to their diets -- a pattern that many humans dieters will find all too familiar.

"We know that people go on and off diets pretty frequently, and we know that people who go off diets tend to gain weight," Belury said.

The mice that fasted and then gorged didn't just regain weight, however. They also developed insulin resistance in their livers. The researchers explained that when the liver doesn't respond to insulin signals telling it to stop producing glucose, that extra sugar in the blood ends up stored as adipose tissue, more commonly known as fat, in the body.

"Even though they were consuming the same amount of energy [calories], they were storing it differently -- storing it as adipose tissue," Belury said. The adipose tissue -- fat -- accumulated around the organs in the mice's midsections.

In humans, gaining fat around the abdomen has been linked to a range of serious health problems. "Heart disease, diabetes, metabolic syndrome -- all of those things are promoted by higher fat in your belly or trunk region," Belury said.

While this study did not test the effects of fasting and gorging on human health, the researchers say there's reason to believe we'd see similar results.

"This does support the notion that small meals throughout the day can be helpful for weight loss, though that may not be practical for many people," Belury said. Skipping meals to save calories "sets your body up for larger fluctuations in insulin and glucose and could be setting you up for more fat gain instead of fat loss."

Qatar still failing migrant workers

says Amnesty International

Human rights organisation says little has improved for foreign labourers since promises of reform in country hosting 2022 World Cup

(THE GUARDIAN) - Amnesty International has accused Qatar of failing migrant workers and “promising little and delivering less” in terms of meaningful reform of its labour laws ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

The human rights organisation, which has produced a series of in-depth reports detailing the grim working conditions of many of the 1.5 million migrant labourers engaged in a huge construction boom, said “little has changed in law, policy and practice” since the government promised limited reforms 12 months ago. It said that of nine key issues identified by Amnesty, limited progress had been made on just five.

In the wake of a Guardian investigation in September 2013, pressure has increased on the Qatari authorities to reform the *ka-fala* laws that tie workers to their employer and to improve often dire living and working conditions.

Amnesty said that even those changes that had been promised, such as the introduction of electronic wage transfers to ensure they are paid on time, were still being implemented, and it had spoken to many migrants who still complained of late or non-payment. The report said Qatar had also failed to meet its target to have 300 labour inspectors in place by the end of 2014 and there had been only limited progress on measures to improve safety on construction sites, regulate exploitative recruitment agencies and improve access to justice for victims of labour exploitation.

“The reality is that more than a year and a half after Amnesty highlighted rampant exploitation of migrants, little has been done to address the root causes of this abuse. We are one year closer to Qatar’s 2022 World Cup – time for changes to be implemented is running out,” said Amnesty’s gulf migrant rights researcher Mustafa Qadri.



A foreign worker climbs scaffolding at the Al-Wakra stadium being built for the 2022 World Cup, in Doha. Photograph: Maya Alleruzzo/AP

“With Qatar’s construction boom continuing and the migrant worker population set to expand to 2.5 million, the need for urgent reform is more pressing than ever.”

The Qatari government disputed many of the Amnesty accusations, insisting: “Significant changes have been made over the last year to improve the rights and conditions of expatriate workers.”

In a statement, the government said it had appointed 294 labour inspectors, a number that it said would rise to 400 by year-end, and added that new accommodation for 250,000 workers was being built.

World football’s governing body has also come under pressure for failing to insist on meaningful reform ahead of the 2022 World Cup, controversially awarded to the tiny Gulf state in December 2010.

“Fifa has spent much time, money and political capital investigating alleged cor-

ruption in the Russia and Qatar World Cup bids, and agonising over the scheduling of the tournament,” said Qadri. “But the organisation has yet to demonstrate any real commitment to ensuring Qatar 2022 is not built on a foundation of exploitation and abuse.”

Last week it emerged that four BBC journalists had been detained on an official visit in early May to inspect conditions in migrant labour camps after being accused of trespassing.

Qadri said: “Seeking to silence those documenting the conditions of migrant workers by detaining and intimidating them, sends the message that the government is more concerned about its image than dealing with the appalling reality of the tens of thousands of men and women who are abused in Qatar.”

In Doha, a source close to the Qatari

government said that the detention of the BBC film crew had been “overinterpreted” because it had happened in response to a complaint by a property-owner who said the journalists were trespassing.

There is no organised crackdown, or policy change,” the source insisted. “There has been a massive overinterpretation of this incident. The trend is towards more openness and engagement. This is a bump in the road.”

But there was no explanation of why Mark Lobel and his three colleagues had been under surveillance, with the BBC reporter shown photographs of his activities in the days leading up to his detention by security personnel travelling in eight vehicles. Lobel said his interrogators never explained why he had been held. “They had actually photographed my every move since I arrived,” he said.

Luis Figo is withdrawing from the Fifa presidential election

Joining Michael van Praag



(BBC SPORT) - Ex-Portugal midfielder Figo, 42, pulled out on the same day as Van Praag, 67, to leave Prince Ali Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan as Blatter's only rival.

Blatter is favourite to win a fifth term as president and Figo said:

"This process is anything but an election. This process is a plebiscite for the delivery of absolute power to one man - something I refuse to go along with."

Each of Fifa's 209 member associations have a vote in the election and Van Praag, who is president of the Dutch football federation, says he will now support Prince Ali.

The English Football Association also intend to support Prince Ali, while the Scottish FA had previously said they would back Van Praag.

The Dutchman is expected to give his reasons from withdrawing from the election at a news conference at 19:00

BST but Figo made his reasons clear in a statement.

"I travelled and met extraordinary people who, though they recognized the value of much that had been done, also concurred with the need for change, one that cleans up Fifa's reputation as an obscure organization that is so often viewed as a place of corruption," he said.

"But over the past few months I have not only witnessed that desire [for change], I have witnessed consecutive incidents, all over the world, that should shame anyone who desires soccer to be free, clean and democratic.

"I have seen with my own eyes federation presidents who, after one day comparing Fifa leaders to the devil, then go on stage and compare those same people with Jesus Christ. Nobody told me about this. I saw it with my own eyes."

He also questioned an election process in which a main

candidate - Blatter - had not produced a manifesto, "so that federation presidents know what they're voting for". Figo added: "There has not been a single public debate about each candidate's proposals."

The latest withdrawal comes after another presidential candidate, Frenchman Jerome Champagne, a former Fifa deputy general secretary, pulled out in February.

Former Tottenham and Newcastle midfielder David Ginola, backed by a betting company, originally announced his intention to stand against Blatter in January, but withdrew two weeks later.

The vote will be held in Zurich at Fifa's annual congress and requires the winning candidate to secure a two-thirds majority in the first round of voting.

If subsequent rounds are required then a simple majority is all that is required for victory.

RAFAEL BENITEZ A LEADING CANDIDATE TO BECOME THE NEXT REAL MADRID MANAGER

(BBC SPORT) - Current Real boss Carlo Ancelotti is widely expected to leave his post after this weekend's final game of the season against Getafe.

Talks between the parties are under way, with 55-year-old Benitez's Napoli contract due to expire next month, although no agreement has been reached.

West Ham have also made contact with the former Liverpool and Chelsea boss.

Sam Allardyce, currently preparing West Ham for Sunday's game at Newcastle, is set for talks about his future early next week.

Benitez began his coaching career at Real Madrid B and has also managed Valladolid, Osasuna, Extremadura, Tenerife, Valencia and Inter Milan.

While at Liverpool, he famously led the side to victory in the 2005 Champions League final and also tasted success in the FA Cup and Uefa Super Cup.

In a brief spell in charge of Chelsea in the 2012-13 season, he steered the Blues to victory in the Europa League.

During his time in Italy with Napoli, he has won the Coppa Italia and led the club to the semi-finals of this season's Europa League.

